



THE GULL

Golden Gate Audubon Society

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BIRDS OF FOREST ISLANDS AND ECOLOGICAL CASCADES: Local Extinctions, Global Declines

Kathryn Sieving will be the featured speaker at our April 9, 1992 program in Berkeley. The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda.

Ms. Sieving will speak about the ecology of forest fragments and the relationships between isolation of forest patches and bird species, decline in both tropical and temperate forests. She will first take us to Barro Colorado Island, Lake Gatun, Panama, and explain the findings of her work with ground insectivorous birds there. Next, we will "return" to the US to look at two studies of forest fragments and birds in Illinois and Missouri; different stories, but the same message—forest fragments are not representative of the ecosystems from which they are carved. We will explore why this is so from the avian perspective.

Ms. Sieving is Assistant Professor of Avian Ecology and Wildlife Resources Conservation at California State University, Sacramento. Her unique insights into the responses of birds to forest fragmentation evolved from her work in the tropics over a seven year period and from research of forest bird communities in the midwest.

The following is Ms. Sieving's topical perspective in her own words:

"I first went to the tropics in 1984 to work as a naturalist at a tourist lodge in SE Peru, the Explorer's Inn. I had no field guide that had plates, and I was completely overwhelmed by the bird, insect, plant and cultural life and experience there. Interacting with a group of indigenous folk that lived near the lodge and nature preserve where I worked was perhaps the most profoundly motivating of all that I did; as I am now committed to the concept of conservation through support of indigenous lifestyles and land control. I am trying to get money to initiate research and educational programs with the San Blas Kuna in Panama. It's where my heart is."

— JOELLE BUFFA
Program Chairman

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, April 4—Briones Regional Park. Leader: David George.

Wednesday, April 8—Mini-trip to Sunol Regional Park.

For details on the above trips see *The GULL* for March.

Participation in the Bouverie Audubon Preserve trip (May 3rd) requires reservation by April 10th. See May 3rd schedule below.

Saturday, April 11—Beginners' trip to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot. This is a particularly beautiful park in the spring, with migrating warblers and vireos, Winter Wrens and, if we're lucky, Pileated Woodpeckers. We will walk about four to five miles and bird mostly by ear. This trip is especially good for beginners.

From the East Bay drive north on I-80 beyond Vallejo and take the Napa exit. Follow Hwy. 29 to St. Helena. The entrance to the park is on the left just beyond the Ole Bale Mill north of St. Helena. From the West Bay take Hwy. 101 north; exit on Hwy. 37 (just before Novato) and go east to the junction with Hwy. 121; turn left and continue on 121 until it joins Hwy. 29 near Napa, then continue north on Hwy. 29 to the park.

Bring lunch and liquids. Rain cancels trip. Please carpool if possible. Leader: Gene Hull (510-525-6893). \$ (✓)

Sunday, April 12—Presidio. Meet at

9 a.m. in the overflow parking lot for Baker Beach, off Lincoln Blvd., next to the Golden Gate Army Reserve Center (MUNI bus #29 stops across the street). Our morning walk will take place along Lobos Creek, the last free flowing stream in the city and county of San Francisco. In addition to birding in this riparian habitat, emphasis will be placed on geology, history and culture of the area. (With the conversion of the Presidio to a unit of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Lobos Creek, and its role in the park, is now a focus of public hearings.) The walk will continue to Mountain Lake and return to the Baker Beach area by noon. Lunch is optional. Leader: Eve Iversen (510-232-2817)

Saturday, April 18—Mines Rd., Livermore. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Nob Hill Shopping Center. Take I-580 east and turn right on No. Livermore Exit. Continue south two miles to the Nob Hill Shopping Center at So. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there we will caravan on mountain roads to Patterson. Bring food and liquids. We can expect to see Northern Orioles, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and Phainopeplas in this habitat. Roadrunners and Wild Turkeys have also been seen on this trip. Those who want to are invited to continue with the group until dark. Leader: Art Edwards (510-447-3720). (✓)

Saturday, April 18—Fourth Annual

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.

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Point Reyes National Seashore All-day Spring Birding Blitz. (Joint activity: GGAS/Nat. Park Service.) Meet at 8 a.m. at Five Brooks Trail-head parking lot, approximately 3.5 miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1. We will bird Five Brooks Pond Area, Limantour Spit, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip. Bring water, food, and layer clothes for variable weather. Leader: Leon Abrams (415-453-9980, work) (510-843-4107, home). (✓)

Sunday, April 19—Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Traditional Easter walk. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. near North Lake (Chain of Lakes) for a walk around the various lakes in the vicinity. There is a variety of waterfowl and songbirds to be seen and at least two species of hummingbirds. After the walk we will have a champagne brunch (\$15) at nearby Thiggy's Restaurant in Lincoln Park. (Reservations not required.) Leader: Betty Short (415-921-3020, work phone).

Saturday, April 25—Join **Dan Murphy's team** and be one of his many observers (mob) on the Birdathon. See page 74 for details.

Saturday, May 2—Birding by Ear in Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at the west entrance to Briones Regional Park off Bear Creek Rd. Take Hwy. 24 east and exit on the Orinda turnoff, then turn left and go back under the freeway on Camino Pablo. Continue northwest about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. Turn right and drive about 4.5 miles to the Briones Regional Park entrance on the right (just beyond Happy Valley Rd.) Or, from Berkeley area, cross through Tilden Regional Park on Wildcat Canyon Rd. and continue across San Pablo Dam Rd. onto Bear Creek Rd.

Meet in the parking area on the left just beyond the fee booth in Briones Regional park. Be prepared to hike five miles with lunch and liquids through hilly terrain. Be sure to bring a hat or sunscreen. We will study the songs and

calls of common breeding birds of the East Bay. Leader: Dave Cornman. (510-825-2106). \$ (✓)

Sunday, May 3—Bouverie Audubon Preserve (near Glen Ellen). We will meet at 8 a.m. near the preserve to car-pool. The Bouverie people require advance notice of the number of participants, so if you plan to attend you must phone the organizers by April 10th. You will be given details for the meeting place when you phone.

This should be a prime time at the Preserve—lots of bird activity and wildflowers too. Plan to hike and carry a lunch. Organizers: Gloria Markowitz and Ken Ackerman. (415-892-2910). (✓)

Sunday, May 3—Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. by the Arlington Clubhouse on Arlington Blvd. (next to the tennis courts between Brewster Dr. and Thors Bay Rd.) in El Cerrito. From there we will make a short drive to the trailhead on Rifle Range Rd. Bring a lunch and liquids for a six mile hike.

We will encounter hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird in brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streamsides and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a few late migrants and a good representation of nesting birds including Grasshopper Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings. We will also identify

San Bruno Mountain Alert

San Bruno Mountain, home to six listed or proposed endangered animals, 15 rare and/or endangered plant species and 3,300 acres of open space, is threatened by current development plans. Called the biggest sea bluff in the state, this incredibly diverse region is an entire ecosystem in danger of extinction.

For more information, or a tour, contact David Schooly at (415) 467-6631 or (510) 524-5609

common trees of the area. People with allergies should be aware that we will encounter grassy conditions. Hiking boots advisable. The trip will end at 2 p.m. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (510-376-8945). (✓)

Wednesday, May 13—Mini-trip to Briones Regional Park. Meet at the park at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 east and exit on the Orinda turnoff, then turn left and go back under the freeway on Camino Pablo. Continue northwest about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. Turn right and drive about 4.5 miles to the Briones Regional Park entrance on the right.

We should see Northern Orioles, Lark Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Lazuli Buntings. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510-351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Plan Ahead:

Friday-Sunday, May 29-31—Yosemite. Birding by Ear. Leader: Dave Cornman.

Saturday-Sunday, June 13-14—Yuba Pass. Leader: Peter Allen.

Saturday-Sunday, June 20-21—Mono Basin. Leaders: Helen and Paul Green.

Friday-Sunday, June 26-28—Lassen Volcanic Nat. Park. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy.

For details on above trips—see future issues of *The GULL*.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (510-524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY OBSERVATIONS

It rained in February, finally. Not great buckets, but a lot. Thank heavens!

It really is the beginning of spring around here — the ornamental fruits have all flowered as have the magnolias; the wildflowers, confused perhaps, have begun to bloom on an accelerated schedule; Allen's Hummingbirds are back; Winter Wrens and Hutton's Vireos, silent all winter but for an occasional chip, have started to sing, a stark contrast of the sublime and the not-so. (Hutton's Vireos, sometimes known as Johnny-One-Note, are neither tuneful nor mellifluous; in truth, they sound like life is an eternal kvetch, but it's heartening to know that it's not always necessary to have spectacular plumage or song in order to attract a mate.) March will bring the first real influx of returning migrants, but for those of us reared on east-coast and mid-western winters, spring in February is always a treat and something of a surprise, no matter how long we've been in California.

Springtime excitement aside, all-in-all February was an uneventful month. The **Yellow-billed Loon** continued to be seen at Whiskeytown Reservoir through the 17th (BY, TCo). There weren't any reported boat trips so the seabird sightings were minimal, but not inconsequential: a **Laysan Albatross** was seen from Pigeon Pt. on the 18th (BS fide RSTh); a **Red-billed Tropicbird** was spotted from a helicopter enroute to the Farallones on the 20th (CE fide KH); and, in the midst of one series of storms on the 13th, a **Magnificent Frigatebird**, generally a victim rather than a denizen of bad weather, was sighted from Ano Nuevo heading north (GJS fide SFB). The Whopper Swan remained at Lower Klamath and White Lake (JSL, CaL) through the end of the month, while Snow and Ross' Geese continued to be seen along SF Bay and nearer the coast, away from their normal inland valley winter haunts. A Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian

race, a very occasional visitor recognized by the white stripe along the scapulars and the lack of a vertical white bar on the side, was in Bolinas Lagoon from the 9th to the 11th (JSw, RS, GFi, GFB). There was a grand total of five, well-distributed Tufted Ducks seen: two in San Francisco and one each in Oakland, Novato and Concord (mob). The **Steller's Eider** stayed at Bodega Bay (GPa); the pair of Harlequin Ducks continued to frequent the Fish Docks area at Point Reyes (mob); three Oldsquaws were reported, from Pt. Reyes (mob), Concord (RJR) and San Leandro (RJR, JMR); and ninety Redheads remained in Emeryville (KFr). Redheads used to be far more common in the winter around here, but have declined markedly probably due to habitat loss on the breeding grounds.

The month's "remainders" include six Lesser Golden-Plovers at Pt. Reyes (mob); Rock Sandpipers at Princeton and Pebble Beach on the San Mateo coast (JiD, mob); and Red Phalarope turned up at Lake Lucerne (BSA fide RSTh) on the 18th. There were two Glaucous Gulls at Half Moon Bay (RSTh); another, an adult, at Stinson Beach (DaS); and yet another at Clear Lake (JRW). A Caspian Tern at Brooks Island, in SF Bay, on the 29th was unusually early (DES). So was a Common Poorwill in El Granada (San Mateo Co.) on the 9th (BS fide RSTh).

In San Francisco, the male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker remained in the *Cryptocarya rubra* at Strybing Arboretum (mob) — the plant is picturesque just in the way it comes trippingly off the tongue. Another Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported from Carmel from the 21st to 25th (LLu, RCa). Winter is hardly flycatcher time, yet there were goodies around: Pacific-Slope Flycatcher still in San Francisco (JSC); **Eastern Phoebe**s in Novato (mob), Santa Cruz (mob) and Merced NWR (TAC) — this has been quite a winter

for a bird that is rarely seen here; and two male Vermilion Flycatchers at Gray Lodge (RKe, KFr, DJe, SMa), an unprecedented event for a species for which there were fewer than two records in northern California. On the 22nd, a Yellow-billed Magpie, a sedentary (i.e. non-migratory) species with very limited distribution primarily in the interior valleys of California, was found on outer Pt. Reyes. It was seen the following day, but not after that (JMHu, BDP, RS). What brings a bird like this, only the second record ever for Marin Co., to the outer coast is anybody's guess. The Sage Thrasher remained at San Lorenzo Creek through the month, visible to interested viewers in the early morning before it dove into the middle of berry bushes for the remainder of the day (RJR, PEG, AWi).

The Nashville Warbler remained at Gazos Creek Rd. until the 9th (RSTh); there was a Yellow Warbler at Lake Merced on the 2nd (ASH); and Wilson's Warblers at Gazos Creek Rd. on the 9th (RSTh) and GG Park on March 1st (DB fide JsC). The Summer Tanager at Lake Merced was last reported on the 2nd (Llu); another was at Muir Beach on the 23rd (fide KH); and a Western Tanager was in GG Park from the 2nd to the 6th (ASH, JSC). As mentioned on previous occasions, Western Tanager, a common migrant in this area, is less expected this time of year than Summer Tanager which is much the rarer bird here overall. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak continued to indulge at the feeder in Woodside (KGi).

The Harris' Sparrow was still in Union City as of the 23rd (mob). Up to nineteen Lapland Longspurs, many molting into breeding plumage, were at the Spaletta Plateau at Pt. Reyes in the latter part of the month (mob). Longspurs are generally looked for, and found, during the fall, but it's possible that small groups may winter in the area and generally elude observation,

grassland birding not being a particularly popular pastime at the best of times and even less of one when the grass grows longer and the chance of discovery diminishes. Yet another lesson in the necessity of looking everywhere all the time.

OBSERVERS:

Stephen F. Bailey, Doug Bell, Florence G. Bennett, R. Carratello, Theodore A. Chandik, Josiah Clark (JsC), Terry Colborn, J. Scott Cox, James Danzenbaker, Chris Elfic, Gary Feldman, George Finger, Kathy Francone, Frank Gardner, Kevin Gilmartin, Phil E. Gordon, Keith Hansen, Alan S. Hopkins, Joan M. Humphrey, D. Jensen, R. Keifer, Michael Larkin, Les Lieurance, Bill Lenarz, Calvin Lou, John Luther, Steve Margolin, Joe Morlan, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Gary Pasquerello, Peter Radcliff, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Barry Sauppe, Donald E. Schmoldt, David Sibley, Dan Singer, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, Gary G. Strachen, James Sword, Scott B. Terrill, Gil Thompson, Ronald S. Thorn, Jerry R. White, Anna Wilcox, Bob Yutzy.

Data thanks to Joe Morlan and the Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

—ANN DEWART

PETER PYLE'S HEROISM HONORED

Peter Pyle, whose name is familiar to readers of the Observations column as a frequent contributor, and who is a researcher for PRBO, was recognized at an awards ceremony by the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. For the risks he took in singlehandedly wrestling a dazed accident victim into a 14-ft. skiff amid surging seas and transporting him to safety. The accident occurred off Southeast Farallon Island last November at the peak of the "white shark season".

The victim, Bill Kaboose, was thrown into the frigid heavy surf when waves flipped his boat. White shark attacks on seals are frequently observed at this time of the year. Scot Anderson, on watch to record such attacks, saw the man floating on the surface. Pyle and other PRBO people launched the skiff and rescued Kaboose. The US Coast Guard evacuated the victim to the mainland where he was treated for shock and hypothermia.

Four other PRBO researchers and four Coast Guardsmen were named, but Sanctuary Manager Ed Ueber said "Mr. Peter Pyle must be singled out. It was he who placed his own life in jeopardy, whose skillful seamanship and intrepid courage made the rescue possible."

JOIN THE MIGRATION!

Come learn raptors — If you want to learn to identify the hawks, falcons and eagles of California and you want to be a part of a long-term wildlife conservation project, then we at GGRO want you. The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory will have only two 1992 orientation meetings. Come either Thursday, April 23 at 7 p.m. or Saturday, May 3 at 10 a.m. The hour long program will be at GGNRA Headquarters, Bldg. 201, Upper Fort Mason. (Enter at Franklin and Bay.)

The GGRO is a group of more than 150 volunteers dedicated to tracking and monitoring the autumn flight of 19 species of birds of prey over the Marin Headlands. We currently seek new volunteers for our 1992 class who can commit one day every two weeks from August through December 1992, and some July weekend and evening training. For more information please call GGRO at (415) 331-0730. This is the group Jenise wrote so enthusiastically about in *The GULL* for March.

CONSERVATION NOTES

OUR MAN IN SACRAMENTO

John McCaull has been selected to be the Audubon California Legislative Affairs Director. He has begun, reporting on Feb. 24th. There were seventy applicants for the position. Our own **Arthur Feinstein** has been voted the Bay Area Audubon Council's delegate to the steering committee that will oversee the Legislative Affairs Office in the Audubon Western Regional Office. Arthur was the driving force that brought this idea, his own, to reality and we all owe him thanks for his vision and effectiveness. Glenn Olsen and Dan Taylor of the WRO were instrumental in bringing this idea to fruition. The position is funded by GGAS, other California Audubon chapters and National Audubon.

WISE USE?

A New actor in environmental controversies is the "wise use movement." This movement combines traditional resource-using organizations with new advocacy groups with names such as "Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise." Many proponents of wise use vigorously oppose the environmental movement. "Environmentalism is the new paganism. It worships the trees and sacrifices people" says Ron Arnold, a spokesman for "wise use." He interprets the "wise use of resources" to be "pro-industry, pro-development and pro-people and vows to "bury the environmental movement once and for all."

Initiated at a 1988 nationwide conference in Reno that drew 300 organizations, the movement has sought to build grassroots support for a program outlined in "The Wise Use Agenda." Positions include:

- Clearcut old growth on National Forests
- Rewrite the Endangered Species Act to remove protection for "non-

adaptive" species such as the California Condor

- Immediate drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve
- Open public lands, including Parks and wilderness, to energy and mineral development
- Civil penalties against those who legally challenge development on public land

Participants at the conference, and two more held since 1988, range from local snowmobile clubs to EXXON and Boise Cascade. Support has also come from Georgia-Pacific, Chevron, Shell Oil, DuPont and Louisiana-Pacific. Often this support is not overt, but flows through grassroots organizations. For instance, the Blue Ribbon Committee, a confederation of 220 ORV groups, has received money from Honda, Yamaha and Kawasaki.

The "wise-use" movement has launched a number of lobbying efforts, including the current push to weaken Federal standards protecting wetlands. It orchestrated the call-in campaign that caused Ford Motor Co. to withdraw its advertising from the Turner Broadcasting System program "Rage Over Trees." It has also sponsored legislation favoring economic development on public lands.

In a sense, the "wise-use" movement is a revival of the "Sagebrush Rebellion" of the seventies but with more money, better organized, powerful friends and a more sympathetic climate. It is a movement that advocates of really wise use and non-use of the environment will have to watch closely.

—JANET LINSE

EDWARDS' WETLANDS BILL: HR4255

On the cover of *The GULL's* last issue we reported Rep. Don Edwards' at that time unnumbered bill addressing the major concerns about wetlands.

All our GGAS area Representatives (Boxer, Dellums, Lantos, Miller, Pelosi, and Stark) are co-sponsors. (If you live in Campbell's district, please get on your Rep.)

A letter thanking your Representative for his support would be appreciated.

You might mention the disastrous S 1696 as a bill to be defeated, when you write.

MILLIONS OF ACRES OF ROADLESS LANDS

In Montana vast areas of public lands will be opened for development with the passage of the Montana National Forest Management Act, S 1696, co-sponsored by Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Conrad Burns (R-MT). The bill was passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in November without being in written form and is presently awaiting introduction to the full Senate. The Five Valleys Audubon Society of Missoula has written to ask our help in alerting our Congressional delegation to its dangers.

Recent revelations of Forest Service mismanagement of our public lands does not bode well for the future of roadless Forest Service lands in Montana. Out of 6 million acres of roadless Forest Service lands in the state 4 million acres will become available for clearcutting, roadbuilding, mining oil/gas and motorized use if S 1696 passes. The less than 2 million acres set aside for wilderness and wilderness study areas are primarily high elevation, low productivity "rocks and ice." The 4 million acres released to development include heavily forested areas with high biological diversity. S 1696 will retain 1% (that is 1%) of the suitable timber base as wilderness — the other 99% will be released for commercial logging!

The survival of wide-ranging sensitive species, such as the grizzly bear, gray wolf, mink, fisher and wolverine

is in dire jeopardy with the enactment of this bill. University of Montana, Professor of Wildlife Biology, Lee Metzger, states "the passage of this bill is going to devastate the one truly unique value that exists in Western Montana and the Northern Rocky Mountains — ... this is the last remnant area where all the native large animals still persist. They're found here because we've had large areas of roadless lands."

Environmental and conservation groups in Western Montana have strongly banded together in opposition to this bill, but that is not enough. We need national support to save the integrity of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem. Please don't allow this public treasure to be sacrificed to short term profit. Ask your Senators and Representative to oppose S 1696.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT ENDANGERED

The Endangered Species Act is up for reauthorization in 1992. The "wise use" movement has targeted it and wetlands for special adverse attention this year. If you are as upset by this movement as we are, write. Your Senators and Representative need to hear from us that the Endangered Species Act needs to be strengthened and that wetlands need to be preserved.

ATTENTION: STORM DRAINS

Storm drains carry rainwater into the nearest stream, river or waters of the San Francisco Bay, into fish habitat and sometimes drinking water. Many people are unaware that storm drains flow directly into Bay and Delta waters. The practice of dumping wastes such as used motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides and paints into storm drains can have a severe impact on our environment.

On Saturday, April 25, the **San Francisco Estuary Project** is coordinating a 12 Bay/Delta county storm

drain stenciling event. The stencil will remind people that storm drains lead directly to Bay and Delta waters and wastes should not be dumped in them.

Volunteers are needed to help paint storm drains in their city or county. Supplies will be provided. Participants should wear old clothes and plan to spend two or three hours. To volunteer or obtain more information, please call Joan Patton at the San Francisco Estuary Project, (510) 464-7990.

ACTIVISTS ON POPULATION

We need phone numbers of people who are willing to call or write their representatives during critical population votes on Capitol Hill. If you are interested in being included, please send us your work and home phone numbers along with your mailing label from Audubon Magazine.

BACK YARD BIRDER

Being a first-time grandparent, my interest in parenting has been revived. Humans may be further up on the evolutionary tree than birds but there are certainly parallel behaviors. Scientists no doubt dislike attaching human-like qualities to animals, but it's inescapable when observing birds and mammals. (Reptiles are for the most part "cold" parents.)

There are many types of pair bonds: polygamy (one bird who mates with one or more members of the opposite sex), polyandry (a female who mates with more than one male), and polygyny (a male who mates with more than one female). About 90% of all birds are monogamous with the pair bond lasting from one nesting (wrens) to one season (most species) or more (robins) or for life (swans, geese). The division of labor between the parents varies just as much. There are all-male care, all-female care, and even "equal rights."

Among some colonial birds such as Sandwich Terns the young are all combined into an avian nursery called a creche. Acorn Woodpecker young from the previous year help their parents raise their new batch.

All parental care begins during egg-brooding. Then the parent hears the baby bird "pipping," cracking open the egg from within. The egg shells are now useless clutter and a hazard to the nestlings' skin. They can't be dumped over the side; their presence would advertise the nest's location. So most birds either eat or carry away the used shells. Other birds, whose young are precocial (who are feathered, walking and feeding themselves), simply abandon the nest.

Another household chore is disposing of the chicks' excrement. It's not merely for hygienic purposes — kingfishers and some woodpeckers are content to wallow in their own wastes. Instead it's mainly to keep the nest a secret. (The above birds are cavity dwellers so it's not as important.) Many young defecate over the side of the nest or from the entrance to the nest hole. Other adult birds eat the excreta or carry it away, the latter being facilitated by the enclosure of waste in a fecal sac. Frankly, I'd rather change a diaper!

The time involved in parenting among species with altricial young (those born helpless) ranges from a month to 8 months or more. Precocial chicks, despite their seeming independence, have much to learn and stay with their parents from a month to as long as the next breeding season.

Food supplied to young may correspond to the parents' diet, or, as in the case of seed-eaters, vary to include a protein-rich diet of insects, etc. The mechanics of feeding is ritualistic since the parent can't release the food until a release signal is given. We're all familiar with the gaping mouths of baby birds. This is all it takes to trigger a

parent into stuffing a juicy bug into the eager eater. A Herring Gull won't release its regurgitated food until the chick pecks the red dot on the parent's bill. Gulls and some herons regurgitate the meal near the chicks for them to pick up. Some birds disgorge into the chick's mouth and hummingbirds "pump" food into the young, a dangerous-appearing act. Some young reach inside the mouth or throat of a parent for food. All in all, it's no more messy than feeding spinach to a baby from a spoon - spit it out, push it in and so on over & over.

Defending their young is another major activity. Defense ranges from passive — simply covering the nest and remaining silent and motionless — to savage aggression, as in most birds of prey. Between these extremes are alarm calls, signalling the young to scatter, to take cover or to remain still; shepherding young to safety; distracting the potential predator (the "old" wounded bird trick); frightening the intruder by screaming, hissing or dive-bombing. In colonies, mobbing tactics by the whole colony or by the forest community sounds an alarm to all birds and drives strangers away.

One of the most engaging behaviors is swimming parents (loons, ducks, grebes, coots and swans) who carry their young on their backs, sometimes even diving under water with them in this position.

We can't really go so far as to say the bird parents "teach" their young. Much behavior is innate, such as flying, preening, feeding and singing. But

some behavior must be imitated. By trial and error, some things are refined rather than passed along intellectually from one generation to the next. Certainly natural selection enters in as the survivors are the "smart" birds who genetically pass along their ability to survive.

Whether it's watching your own progeny grow and mature or watching your nest box, the miracle of life is just that, a miracle.

—MEG PAULETICH

THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED PLOVER

SAM SPRIG: So, Mrs. Nice, you want me to find your teammates, is that right?

MRS. NICE: That's right, Mr. Sprig. I've lost my team. You *must* help me, Mr. Sprig. I'm so worried about them.

SPRIG: Just tell me all about it, Mrs. Nice.

NICE: Well, we were on the Birdathon.

SPRIG: The what, Mrs. Nice?

NICE: The Birdathon. The Bay Birdathon '92. There were seven of us and it was dark out there on Mines Road. I thought I heard a Song Sparrow and . . .

SPRING: Song Sparrow? In the dark? You are confused, Mrs. Nice. So there you were on Mines Road and then what happened?

NICE: I went to look for the Song Sparrow and when I turned around, they were gone. Something awful has happened to them.

* * *

SPRIG: Well, here we are on Mines Road, Mrs. Nice, Just where were you standing when the dingus started squawking?

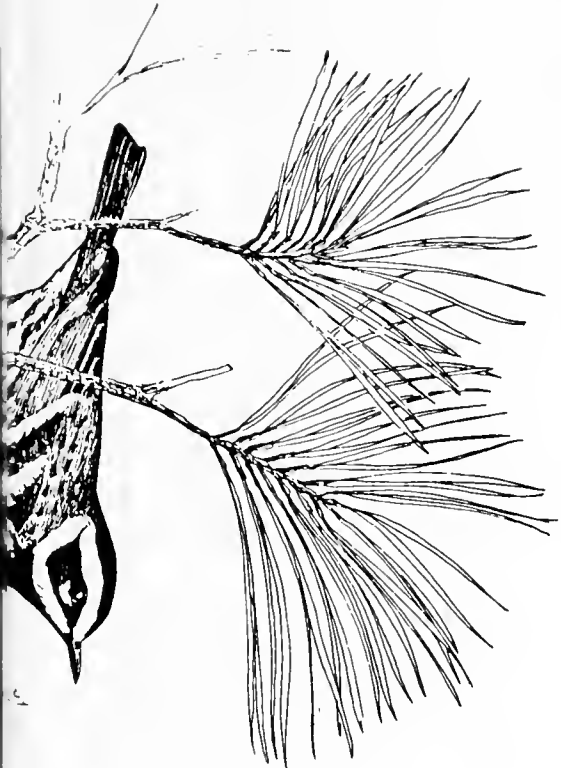
NICE: The Dingus? Oh, you mean the Song Sparrow. Well, just over here. Look, Mr. Sprig, it's Miles' spotting scope!



The Mono Lake Committee is embroiled in an extended legal battle against formidable opposition, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power--all to preserve a jewel on the east side of the Sierra Nevada. Mono Lake, a salty brine shrimp-filled lake just east of Yosemite, is threatened by the diversion of mountain streams to water pipelines leading to southern California. The diversions have been suspended by a preliminary court order, but the legal maneuvering continues.

On April 25, Golden Gate Audubon Society and Marin Audubon Society will again join together in the National Audubon Birdathon to raise funds for the Mono Lake Committee and National Audubon's Mono Lake Legal Fund. At least 80% of the proceeds will benefit Mono Lake. The balance will be used for Audubon Chapter activities.

You can help save Mono Lake. Please support Bay Birdathon '92.



Bay Birdathon '92

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bay Birdathon '92

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY
MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Pledge Form

☐ I PLEDGE TO SPONSOR ONE (OR MORE) OF THE FOLLOWING BIRDATHON TEAMS AT THE RATE OF \$_____ PER SPECIES. CONTACT ME AFTER THE APRIL 25 BIRDATHON TO COLLECT MY PLEDGE.
(MARK TEAM YOU WISH TO SPONSOR:)

- ☐ **ALLEN'S HUMMERS.** Allen Fish, Joe DiDonato, John Keane, Sally Mills, Dave Riensche.
- ☐ **BIG OIL BIRDERS ("BOB").** Chevron employees, with two sub-teams (pledge for either or both):
- ☐ **BOB1:** Dave Quady, in the Bay Area.
- ☐ **BOB2:** Bob Lewis, on the Gulf Coast.
- ☐ **BIKING BUSHED KIDS,** a Birdathon on bicycles. David Rice, Paul Green, Helen Green, Marty Reuting, Don Rivenes.
- ☐ **BINO'ED BARE-EYES,** birding in the Amazon Basin in Ecuador. Lina Prairie, Beverly Anderson, Helen Green, Paul Green, Leora Feeney, Janet Wessel.
- ☐ **BODEGA BAY BUSHTWITS.** Nancy Conzett,

- ☐ **MINES ROADRUNNERS.** Art Edwards, Gayanne Enquist & participants in Marin Audubon's April 25 Mines Road field trip in Livermore area; call Gayanne at (415) 663-8361 (days) for information.
- ☐ **MONO LAKE NOSEE'UMS,** a team of Mono Lake Committee staff, birding from Bridgeport to Crowley Lake.
- ☐ **MURPHY'S M.O.B. (Many Observers).** Dan Murphy & you, when you show up for this field trip in San Francisco with Golden Gate Audubon; call Dan at 564-0074 for details.
- ☐ **NOT-SO-OLDSQUAWS.** Ann Dewart, Emilie Strauss, Janet Wessel.
- ☐ **ROCKINGBIRDS,** walking around Tiburon. Elva Edger & Mary Defenderfer.
- ☐ **SEMI-BLUE VERIZON BLOWNOS.** Betty Burridge

- ☐ **ENVIRONMENTALISTERS**, a walking big day, following ABA big day rules. Alan Hopkins, Jan Anderson, Mark Elliott.
- ☐ **HUFFING PUFFINS**. Nicki Spillane, Tom Spillane, Pete White, Dolores White, Mike Hebert & Karen Hebert.
- ☐ **LOONATICKS**, following ABA big day rules. Alan Hopkins, David Wimpfheimer, Dan Singer, Donna Lion, David Holway.

- ☐ **URBAN TYRANTS**. Ivan Samuels, Josiah Clark, Allan Ridley.
- ☐ **WANDERING TATTLERS**. Rozilyn Bazurto, Tom White, Julie Lane, Penny Watson.
- ☐ **WATERFOUL** (an all-EPA team). Harrison Karr, Wendy Pulling, Paul Jones, Bill Keener, Frank Gardner.
- ☐ **YARDBIRDS**. Keith Hansen, Chuck Alexander, Harry Bidgood & friends.

- ☐ I WANT TO SUPPORT THE TEAM WITH THE HIGHEST SPECIES TOTAL AT \$_____ PER SPECIES.
- ☐ I WANT TO SUPPORT THE TEAM WITH THE LOWEST SPECIES TOTAL AT \$_____ PER SPECIES.
- ☐ I ENCLOSE A CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____. (Enclose check payable to Marin Audubon or Golden Gate Audubon.)

☐ I WILL LEAD MY OWN TEAM AND WILL GATHER PLEDGES OF AT LEAST \$1.00 PER SPECIES.

☐ I WANT TO JOIN THE ☐ MINES ROADRUNNERS or ☐ MURPHY'S M.O.B. Call me with details.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

() _____

FOLD FORM & SEND TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE



Return address:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

BAY BIRDDATHON '92
c/o Harrison Karr
1150 East Court
Novato, CA 94945

SPRING: Miles's spotting scope, on Mines Road? You are good, Meg, but a spotting scope on Mines Road, in the dark? Of course he would have brought a spotting scope to Mines Road, for you. Even would have pretended to be interested in birds, for you. Are you sure it was dark? Sounds like a wild goose chase to me.

NICE: I tell you it was *dark*. The Fat Man was there, and . . .

SPRIG: The Fat Man! Was he on *your* team? I thought he was on *my* team.

* * *

SPRIG: How much are you willing to pledge for the dingus?

FAT MAN: The dingus? Oh, you mean Mrs. Nice's Song Sparrow. Well, suppose I tell you a *fabulous* sum, would you believe me? The "dingus," as you so charmingly call it, is no Song Sparrow. Not on Mines Road. In the dark. Do you have this dingus, Mr. Sprig?

SPRIG: Not yet, but if you pledge enough, I think I can put one on my Birdathon list. Say \$1 a species, plus \$5 for the Blackbird.

FAT MAN and NICE: A Blackbird? On Mines Road? In the Dark?

SPRIG: Well, maybe not on Mines Road, but the Blackbird, if the price is right.

NICE: But the Blackbird is *mine*, not his, I found it.

SPRIG: Yes, sweetheart, but he pledged and you didn't. This is a *fundraiser*, you know! For Mono Lake, Golden Gate Audubon and Marin Audubon. Hey! Where do you think you're going with my pledge list? Keep your mitts off my pledges and make your own pledge. The form is attached in the middle of *The Gull*.

(The authors of this drama disclaim responsibility and decline a byline.)

More information on Birdathon '92 is available from Steve Margolin, (415) 434-4262 ext. 6005, or Harrison Karr, (514) 892-6342. (See also p. 75 for the handsome t-shirt designed by Sophie Webb.)

LAKE MERRITT BIRDING BY BOAT

Saturday, April 4, at 10:30 a.m. there will be a naturalist-led hour boat trip into the habitat of Lake Merritt's wild birds. There is a limit of 25 participants, and the cost is \$1.50 per person. Information is available from the Rotary Nature Center at (510) 238-3739. The Center is at 552 Bellevue in Lakeside Park, Oakland.

CATS, AGAIN A REVERSIBLE CATASTROPHE

(Re-printed by permission from the *OBSERVER*, No. 91 of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory)

Songbird populations on every continent are in steep decline. While pollution, acid rain, clear-cutting of tropical and domestic forests, global warming and human sprawl are serious environmental adversaries, an agent every bit as detrimental to small birdlife in North America may be crouched in ambush in your back yard - or curled up on your lap.

The problem is cats. How large a threat do they pose? Let's do a quick calculation, starting with numbers of pet cats. Population estimates of domestic house cats in the contiguous United States vary somewhat, but most agree the figure is between 50 and 60 million. On 3 March 1990, the *San Francisco*



Chronicle gave the number as 57.9 million, "up 19% since 1984." For this assessment, let's use 55 million.

Some of these (maybe 10%) never go outside, and maybe another 10% are too old or too slow to catch anything. That leaves 44 million domestic cats hunting in gardens, marshes, fields, thickets, empty lots and forests.

It is impossible to know how many of those actively hunting animals catch how many birds, but the number is high. To be very conservative, say that only one in ten of those cats kills only one bird a day. This would yield a daily toll of 4.4 million songbirds! Shocking, but true—and probably a low estimate (e.g., many cats get multiple birds a day).

In the British magazine *Natural History* (July 1989), it is pointed out that "Britain's five million house cats enjoy both indoor comforts and outdoor hunting": the healthier the outdoor house cat, the more small birds and other animals it will kill. After sleeping, hunting is cats' favorite pastime; it is not a matter of hunger.

Most people who own killer cats—even people who claim to love small wildlife—manage to rationalize their pets' behavior. "He doesn't mean to hurt anything." "He only gets a few." "It's his natural instinct!" Yet the situation is far from natural. The house cat has been bred by people over the centuries and is not a natural member of any food web. Its out-of-control population is vastly larger than all native predators put together.

A PLAGUE OF CATS

Add to this the plague of feral cats. How many? No one knows, but they occur everywhere in temperate North America (except deserts and high mountains), and in some places are abundant. A few years ago Stanford University initiated a control program,

because an estimated 2000 feral cats were living on (and eliminating bird life from) the school campus. In parks, foothills, and agricultural areas, feral cats are a common sight. Along the California coast, it is common to see 10 to 15 during a day's outing (and these are nocturnal animals). Certainly there are many million, countrywide. What do they eat? Wildlife! Nothing but wildlife.

In some places the native animals killed are mostly small animals, a phenomenon proven (in places) to seriously deplete the prey base for wintering hawks and owls. Elsewhere, feral cats take mostly small birds. While most of the victims are "common species" (though seldom House Sparrows or Starlings), rare animals such as Black Rails and salt marsh harvest mice will also show up in the body count.

Beyond the fact that a single cat can extirpate native fauna from a given site, cats reproduce at alarming rates and, if uncontrolled, will affect huge areas. In the journal *Wildlife* (February 1976) Henry Tegner writes, "compared to the truly wild mammalian predators . . . which in most cases breed once a year, the domestic cat gone wild is a much more prolific creature, having several litters a year. To give an idea of the productivity of a cat, the RSPCA once reported that a single she-cat from Exeter produced more than 1200 identifiable progeny in the space of ten years, an average of 120 a year."

On islands, where feral cats rapidly fill every niche, elimination of native fauna is thorough. In 1949, five cats were brought to Marion Island in the sub-Antarctic Indian Ocean to control mice at a new meteorological station. These were the only cats present. In 1975, a study estimated that the 2200 cats on the island (nearly 40 square miles) were killing 600,000 seabirds (mostly prions and petrels) annually!

Attempts to control or eliminate feral cats—and ensuing damage to wildlife—are few, are mostly haphazard, and remain unorganized. The US Dept. of Agriculture Animal Damage Control program reported in 1988 the following selected animals killed by government hunters (numbers in parenthesis were killed by licensed private citizens): coyote 76,033 (250,000); racoon 5348; badger 939; porcupine 799; black bear 289 (21,000); mountain lion 203 (1500); feral cat 178. Licensed private hunters did not list the latter species.

Some parks and refugees eliminate some individual cats, but even those with regular removal programs probably are not keeping up with cat reproduction, even on a very localized scale.

PROCLAIM A SANCTUARY!

Meanwhile, back in the city, gardens (which could otherwise be mini-wildlife refuges, making up a patchwork of significant habitat throughout the country) are only illusions of shelter, luring small birds to the threat of the claw. If you have a garden, why not proclaim it a wildlife sanctuary and protect it from non-native predators? If roaming cats come into your sanctuary to poach the wildlife under your stewardship, you have the right and perhaps even the duty to discourage them in a serious way.

If sanctions against neighbors who allow their animals to trespass your property and assault your avian friends don't work, go the next step. Try calling the animal control officers (the pound) to have the animal removed. If they fail to respond, try a B-B gun.* There is no need to kill or shoot toward the head, but a good sting on the rump seems memorable for most felines, and they seldom return for a third experience. Failing that, a "have-a-heart" trap and a trip to the animal shelter might work. Word in catland seems to travel fast. Soon you will have a safe place for small, wild visitors.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1) Implore agency officials like park rangers, game wardens, and wildlife agents to permanently remove (not relocate) feral cats from parks and other public lands. If they claim not to have the funds for the job, volunteer yourself.

2) Insist that local animal control units control local exotic animals by removing cats that are living off the land.

3) Give financial and emotional support to projects designed specifically for eradication of unnatural predators throughout the world, especially on islands.

4) Support mandatory spaying and neutering policies and feline breeding moratorium issues as they arise, or instigate action in your area. San Mateo County has initiated one such program. According to a City official, "The response we have received from the public is incredible - and 98% positive."

5) Proclaim your yard a personal national wildlife refuge. Plant it for wildlife, and defend it against marauding cats.

6) Physically discourage cats from attacking birds. If the cat is your own: a) Keep it in the house. b) Attach obnoxious bells to its collar. One little jingle-bell is not enough. c) Sting it if it even thinks about stalking birds; it will still love you.

If you truly care for birds and other small wildlife, please do all you can to intercept violence directed at them by cats.

—RICH STALLCUP

*EDITORS NOTE: Rich's recommendation about using a gun raised a storm of protest in Marin County. While *The GULL* does not endorse that kind of action, the article is very important and should encourage local action in all the cities and counties where GGAS members live. Specifically, we should intensify the efforts started in 1918 to require the licensing of cats.

One correspondent, reacting to a recent treatment of the issue, praised the usefulness of pet cats in letting children experience the excitement and pleasure of seeing a litter of kittens born, and watching them grow. To him, we suggest guinea pigs, white rats, or other species which will not grow up to be "unnatural predators."

PEOPLE OF COLOR SUMMIT

October 24-27 the first National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit was held in Washington, DC. There were approximately 700 grassroots leaders of Native American, African-American, Latino and Asian descent represented from every geographic region of the US. *Never let it be said again that there are no minorities in the environmental movement.* They came together to meet other activists, share strategies and redefine environmental priorities. One outcome of the Summit was the development of **Principles of Environmental Justice**, which was overwhelmingly passed by the Summit body on the final day.

The first day of the Summit was open only to People of Color grassroots environmental leaders. I joined the Summit on the second evening when "observers" were welcome. Peter Berle, president and Adaora Latham, solid waste coordinator also attended. It was truly refreshing to be in the company of so many people that have long been leaders in various communities and on a host of different issues. The way issues interconnect, particularly in People of Color communities, became even clearer.

The aim of the Summit was to give visibility to the leaders, validity to the issues, create a support system, and most importantly lay out environmental issues that are relevant in their communities. Racism, poverty, lack of political empowerment, unaffordable health care, unsafe working conditions, and lack of Native American land rights, are just a few of the issues that disproportionately affect People of Color and damage their living environment.

There was also an opportunity for People of Color personnel in national

environmental organizations to meet each other and begin to develop a network. We hope to establish a relationship with grassroots leaders and draw on local experts as resources. Audubon's support of this Summit is evidence of its commitment to this relationship.

The challenge, at this point, to national environmental organizations, is to broaden our understanding of environmental issues and embrace and include issues outlined by other activists. People of Color represent an important contribution to the environmental movement. We must start a dialogue to find ways that we can work together. You can begin by calling me (202-547-9009) or writing the Washington DC office for a copy of the **Principles of Environmental Justice**.

— TANYA THOMAS

(Adapted from an article in Population Program Quarterly Bulletin, NAS, Winter 1992)

CLASS WITH DAN MURPHY

"The birds of the Sierra and Cascades" offered by the California Academy of Sciences: Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., May 5, 12 and 19.

Get ready for summer birding with this three-part introductory class to the birds of the California mountains. For their short summer our mountains team with birdlife. Learn about identification, habitat needs, nesting habits and birding hot spots. Lectures include slides and study skins.

For members of the Academy and GGAS the fee is \$45, for other \$55. Registration is with Adult Education at the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118. Include your name, address, day and evening phone numbers, the name of the class, your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The information number is (415) 750-7100.

AUDUBON'S TEN TOP TIPS FOR SAVING THE PLANET

8



HELP WILDLIFE: Snip rings on 6-pack holders. They end up in dumps and waterways where birds and other wildlife get caught in them and strangle.

- Plant berry bushes and fruit-producing shrubs and bushes to feed wildlife.
- Don't buy products made from wild animals that are endangered or threatened in their country of origin. When in doubt, don't buy at all.
- Wild animals don't make good pets. If you want an exotic pet, buy captive bred.

OAKLAND MUSEUM'S NATURAL SOUND LIBRARY

A Day Of Natural Sounds, a celebration, will open the California Library of Natural Sounds in its new facility at the Oakland Museum Sunday, April 5, 1992. A concert, "New Music, with Birds, Frogs and Other Creatures," at 3 p.m. will begin the festivities.

The library, which includes audio recordings of insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, has been assembled over the past 25 years, 11 of them under the direction of Paul Matzner, curatorial specialist in the museum's natural sciences department. He is supervising the installation of six new sound environments in the "Walk Across California" transect in the natural sciences gallery. Supplemented

by sound recording and creative uses of natural sounds, the library, home of the Nature Sounds Society, will be available for public use by special arrangement.

Admission to the concert is \$6, free to children 11 and under. It will be followed by a free reception and open house at 5 p.m.

In connection with the opening of these facilities the guild will also be offering Dave Corman's class on bird song identification, Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12. The fee is \$28 (\$25 for Museum members). For information call (510) 238-3884.

MOOSE AGAIN

Fans of "Moose" Peterson, and those who did not get to hear him when he spoke to GGAS, will be glad to know of another chance: The Bay Area Bird Photographers will have him as their speaker at Palo Alto's Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Center on East Embarcadero Road, Monday, May 4. The meeting is from 7:30-9:30.

However fearful one may be that the fallible and dilatory intelligence of the human species will somehow either end human life or reduce it to unbearable squalor, the decline of the human condition is not inevitable. It is for us to decide whether we continue to reproduce at disastrous rates, plunder the planet of resources, or burn ourselves from the face of the earth through either thermal pollution or a few quick blasts. The world is man's doing, not something done to him.

— CHARLES E. LINDBLOM
*Politics and Markets**

*Basic Books, New York, 1977.

FEATHER RIVER COLLEGE Program for Seniors

Again, the College, near Quincy, in the Sierra Nevada, overlooking the majestic Spanish Creek, offers educational programs for seniors (with no tests and no homework) in a remote, scenic area. The coordinators are, for the first session Esther Joplin (510) 836-3037; for the second and third sessions Alice Soffiotto (510) 530-0495.

The cost is \$305 which entitles each participant to the educational program, lodging, three meals a day Monday through Friday, Sunday dinner and Saturday breakfast, and roundtrip transportation by school bus from convenient locations in the East Bay. The cost is based on double occupancy. Single occupancy may be available at an additional \$30. A \$50 deposit holds space, and the balance is due one month before departure. Call the coordinator for details. Inquire about diets and physical limitations.

June 7-13:

"Spring Flora of the Sierra" - Study the identification and uses of plants of the Sierra.

"Birding the Northern Sierra Nevada" - Field birding and classroom study with skins and slides. Bring guides and binoculars.

"Trees - Trains - Gold" - Each has played a decisive role in the development of Plumas County.

June 28-July 4:

"Sierra Nevada Wildlife" - Ecology of Sierran fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

"California's Yellow, Green and White Gold" - The 49er Gold Rush, tall trees and lumbering, hydroelectric power are the three elements stressed. "Flora of the Sierra" - Local species are studied, with particular attention to economic, historic or esthetic importance.

July 19-25:

"Let's Talk About Jazz" - Share the

jazz heritage through listening and discussion. Unique music from its sometimes shady past to the concert hall. "Tall Timber" - Watch loggers working active timber sales, visit a sawmill, learn the socio-economic issues facing timber towns.

"Folklore of Old California" - Meet Black Bart, Dame Shirley and others. Tour sights of interest, explore myth and reality with a Western raconteur.

Field trips are planned where appropriate in each session.

LETTER

San Francisco

Dear GGAS

Thanks to the suggestion of a friend I stopped buying birdseed, and now see the many species that naturally occur, instead of flocks and flocks of House Finches and House Sparrows which came to depend on my feed. When there is a movement in the trees and shrubs in my yard I now pay close attention because I am just beginning to see and recognize many kinds I had just read or heard about. I rarely saw them back there before. I think my friend is right: we should garden for birds in general, not buy 50 pound bags of seed for resident colonies of finches and sparrows. Please give this some thought. As a beginning birder, I have found a remarkable difference.

— JEAN AMOS

CHANGES

President Bruce Walker's term comes to an end on May 31. He continues on the board as Director-at-large for one year. Ruth Dement, Corresponding Secretary, has decided not to accept re-nomination, and will retire after long and devoted service at the end of this term. Her warmth and experience will be missed.

The nominating committee reported to the board meeting on February 24. The ballot will appear in *The GULL* for May.

NEWS FROM OUR RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244
 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970
 Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies
 Gary Holloway, President

GOLDEN GATE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE AUDUBON CANYON RANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Bruce Walker, *ex officio* Dan Murphy
 Nicki Spillane Steven Margolin

BOLINAS LAGOON DOCENT TRAINING

The Audubon Canyon Ranch Volunteer Council is planning its next training session. Here's your chance to become a member of the docent council which so generously shares their love for the Ranch and their knowledge of nature with the hundreds of school children who visit the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve each year.

The training session is an intensive one. The 22 classes will take place on Wednesdays between September 9 and March 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Our staff biologists, docents and specialists in education and natural history will provide instruction. Their goal is to provide volunteers with the background and confidence to participate in our natural history education program. Docents not only lead small groups of fourth and fifth grade students on Ranch visits, but provide workshops in their classrooms prior to their Ranch visit. Volunteers who complete the training program make the commitment to participate in two consecutive spring and fall school programs, as well as ongoing training.

There is no question that this is one of the premier volunteer opportunities in the Bay Area. The quality of the education you will receive is excellent. The enthusiasm of continuing docents is contagious. And the euphoria of the success

you experience is deeply satisfying. If you have the desire to volunteer, if you have the time for a two-year commitment, and if you wish to share in the joy of being an ACR docent, CALL ACR AT (415) 868-9244.

Orientation and interview days are planned for May 27 and August 26. Tuition is \$75. Partial scholarships are available.

ENDOWMENT DRIVE

We hope to raise a permanent endowment fund of \$5 million; we are over half way to our goal.

There are many ways you can make a commitment to ACR. You may write a check right now, or pledge an amount and make monthly payments until your gift is complete. Perhaps a gift of real estate or of securities is in your best interest. Or perhaps you wish to remember ACR with a bequest in your will. On the other hand a charitable life income plan may be the vehicle through which you make a gift to ensure ACR's future. Donors of gifts over \$1000 will have their names inscribed in ACR's Grove of Honor on permanent display at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve.

ACR is a marvelous success, and that success is due to our volunteers, our staff, *and* our donors. Your contribution to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Endowment Fund will be a gift which will help assure permanently a tradition of excellence in environmental preservation, education and research. For details please call the office at (415) 868-9244.

SPRING CALENDAR

"Spring Wildflowers" at both the Bolinas Lagoon and Bouverie Preserves on April 11 and 12, with Ray Peterson and John Petersen (\$45). Get up to speed on wildflower identification in one infor-

mation packed weekend.

"Shorebirds All Dressed Up" at the Cypress Grove Preserve and Tomales Bay on April 25, with John Kelly (\$20). The little brown shorebirds so hard to identify in drab winter plumage are striking and distinctive as the nesting season nears. They are here for only a moment before they race to the arctic, so come glimpse some of our most beautiful birds.

"8th Annual Downhill Hike" at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve on May 16, with Ray Peterson (\$10). How does Ray do it year after year without going uphill? You'll have to take this hike to learn for yourself.

BOUVERIE GUIDED WALKS

Join a docent led walk through the Bouverie Audubon Preserve in Sonoma. Spectacular wildflowers and singing birds will enhance the beauty of the preserve. Dates are Saturdays: April 4, 11 & 25; May 9 & 23. All walks begin at 9:30 a.m. and end around 1:30 p.m. Reservations for these free walks are required, so call early. (707) 938-4554.

SO FAR AT THE RANCH . . .

As of the end of February as many as 20 Great Blue Herons explored the heronry, but none began claiming nest sites. The first Great Egrets arrived just at the end of the month.

The bookstore is restocked and ready for your visit. Maybe you'll get a copy of the recently republished children's classic, *The Blue Heron Tree* by Edith Thatcher Hurd. On the other hand you may want to give it to someone who has been very good.

We wish a warm welcome to our new bookkeeper, Mary Ely and to our new weekend host, LaRee Holmes.

— DAN MURPHY

BIRDATHON WITH MURPHY'S MOB

On Saturday, April 25, be one of the many observers (mob) who join Dan Murphy for a great day of birding on the San Francisco Peninsula. Build a day list of a hundred or more species, visit many of the Peninsula's greatest birding spots, get together with friends, join us for dinner at Celia's, and help GGAS in its major annual fund raiser. Did we mention your pledge per species? You are welcome to join us for any pledge of a dime or more per bird.

Meet at 7 a.m. at the parking lot up the hill from the Cliff House at the intersection of Merri Way and Great Highway in San Francisco.

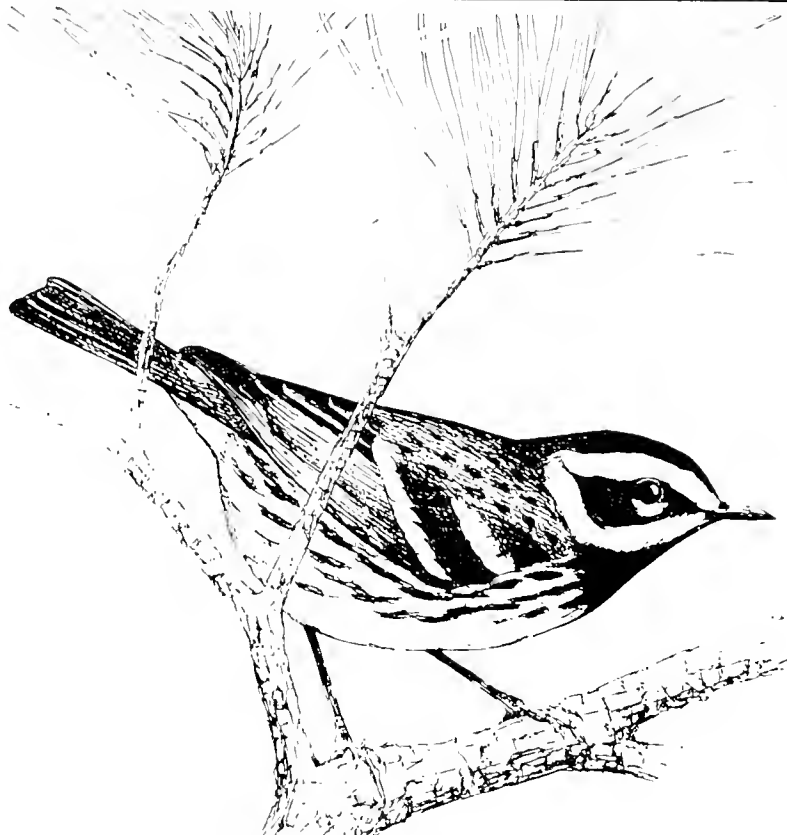
Wear layered clothing so you will be comfortable along the coast where it may be foggy and windy, or in the interior where it may be quite warm. Sun screen, lunch and liquids are necessary as well.

If you plan to join us for dinner at Celia's Mexican Restaurant please call Dan Murphy, 564-0074, during the week prior to the Birdathon.

BAY BIRDATHON '92 T-SHIRT

Sophie Webb's design for the Bay Birdathon '92 T-shirt appears on page 75. She is the designer of the '91 Bufflehead and the much-admired Not-So-Oldsquaws T-shirts. Lettering is by Janet Wessel and silkscreening is by Laura McKeegan again. Again we have a quality production.

The Bay Birdathon '92 T-shirt will be available to all members for \$13 including tax. It comes on beefy 100% cotton in sizes medium, large and extra-large. Send your check to the GGAS office.



GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS In Memory of

Fred & Claire Hellman
Claire Hellman
Claudine Black
Elsie Roemer
Blanche Vranina

Gift of

Betty Carpenter
T.I.F.O.
Anne Anderson
Robert & Valeria Da Costa
Carole F. Truman

For Audubon Canyon Ranch In Memory of

Fred & Claire Hellman
Claire Hellman

Katherine & Hubert von Marschall
Mr. & Mrs. John Dang

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

THE GULL



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY ROSTER

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First Vice President, Steven Margolin

(415-434-4262, x6005)* — 92

Second Vice President, Lina Jane Prairie

(510-549-3187)* — 92

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